5th March 1925]

Nomination of aliens to local bodies.

* 383 *Q.*—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

11-15 a.m.

(*a*) the number of 'aliens' nominated to the municipal councils and local boards in 1922 and 1923;

(*b*) whether it was the policy of Government not to nominate aliens;

(*c*) whether Rev. Father Loubiere of Cuddalore (an alien), who was a nominated member of the Cuddalore Municipal Council till March 1921, was recommended for re-nomination by the Collector of South Arcot and if so, whether the reason for not nominating him was due to his being an alien or any other cause;

(*d*) whether the Government are aware at the time of nominating Rev. Father Verdure of Cuddalore as a member of the South Arcot District Board quite recently that he was an alien;

(*e*) whether any departure has been made from the policy of not nominating an alien and if so, since when; and

(*f*) the number of aliens nominated to the local bodies from April 1924 up to date?

A.—(*a*) None.

(*b*) & (*d*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) Recommendations for nominations are confidential and the Government are not prepared to furnish any information as to whether the Rev. Father Loubiere was recommended for a seat on the Cuddalore Municipal Council.

(*e*) No exceptions are made occasionally in favour of influential and well known persons, usually missionaries or doctors, if their nomination is considered necessary in the public interest.

(*f*) The number appointed by Government is three. The Government have no information as to the number of aliens appointed by the Presidents of district and taluk boards.

Mr. P. L. MOORE:—"Sir, before we proceed with the question, I should like to point out that there is a printer's error in the answer to clause (*e*). There must be a full-stop after 'No' and the remaining answer would read 'Exceptions are made . . .'"

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, arising out of the answers to clauses (*a*) and (*e*), may I ask why the Government did not make any exceptions in the years 1922 and 1923?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Because the Government did not consider it necessary to make any exceptions."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Therefore may I take it that the policy has since undergone a change?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"There is no change in the policy; but whenever it is necessary to make any exceptions they do so."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"In those two years Government thought that there was no such necessity."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Government thought that no such necessity was felt in those two years."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Is it the policy of Government not to nominate aliens even though they are domiciled and if so, why is this policy of hatred ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Hatred ? It is not a question of hatred."

Medical.

The Chowghat hospital.

*384 Q.—Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a representation from the inhabitants of Chowghat against the proposal of the district board, Malabar, and Ponnani taluk board that the hospital at Chowghat should be reduced to a dispensary and against a low-paid medical officer being placed in charge of it ;

(b) the reasons of the district and taluk boards for making such a proposal ;

(c) whether one of the reasons was that the hospital at Ponnani should be further developed to the detriment of the Chowghat hospital ;

(d) whether the Government will furnish to the House statistics for the past five years showing the number of in-patients and out-patients treated in the two hospitals, the number of major and minor operations conducted for the same period in them and also information as to the area adjacent to the hospital the needs of which are met by them ;

(e) what was the amount contributed by the public of Chowghat towards the construction of some wards of this hospital ; and

(f) what are the opinions of the district medical officer of Malabar and the Surgeon-General to the Madras Government regarding the reduction of this hospital into a dispensary ?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b), (c) & (f) No such proposal has been received by the Government.

(d) As regards the number of in-and out-patients treated in the two hospitals the hon. Member is referred to the annual returns of civil hospitals and dispensaries which have been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Government have no information regarding the number of major and minor operations conducted in the two hospitals. It is not possible to define accurately the areas served by the hospitals.

(e) The Government have no information.

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" Sir, the answer to clauses (b), (c) and (f) of my question is that ' no such proposal has been received by the Government.' On the 6th December in answer to a question (No. 1522), the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government placed on the table the report of the Committee (Malabar District Board Retrenchment Committee) appointed under G.O. No. 2043, dated 17th September 1923. The report contains the recommendation regarding the Chowghat hospital. It says : ' Existing men are to be kept on until they are provided elsewhere but the local boards to pay contributions to provincial funds on the above scale only. When vacancies arise they should be filled up by local men on the above scale of pay.' Is the